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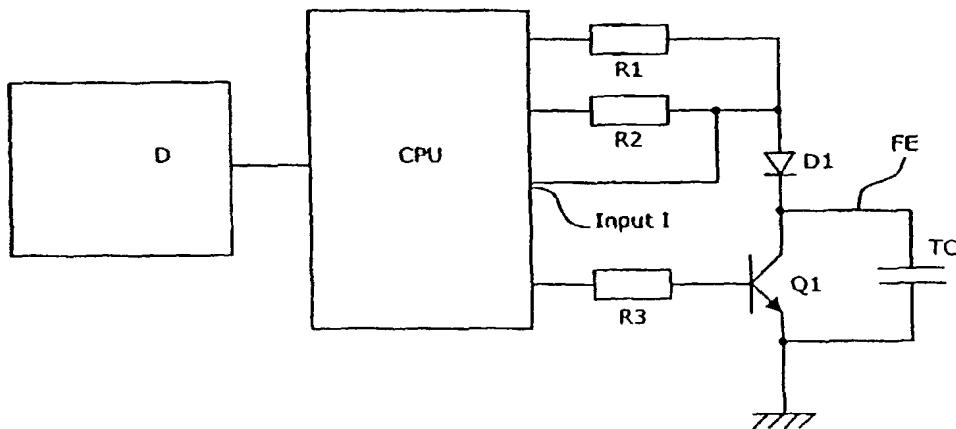
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(54) Title: DISPLAY ACTIVATED BY THE PRESENCE OF A USER



(57) Abstract: A display, typically an electroluminescent display, of the type having both an activated, "on", state and an inactivated, "off", state, and being switchable between the two, which display incorporates a capacitance sensor, able to detect the near presence of a user, together with means able to utilise the output of this sensor to effect activation of the display accordingly. Preferably, the capacitance sensor comprises a pair of electrodes, one of which may be a front electrode of the electroluminescent display. The capacitance may be sensed by determining the time taken to charge a capacitance; the capacitance may be charged at two or more rates so as to decrease the time taken to measure the capacitance and so reduce the energy consumed.

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